INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

ACTION COPY (581)

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Info

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 25837

1967 MAY 16 AM 7 55

EXDIS

REF: STATE 194943

1. AS WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY, THE ASSEMBLY THIS MORNING DEFEATED AN ATTEMPT TO AMEND ARTICLE 24 OF THE ELECTORAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR A RUN-OFF ELECTION. THERE WERE ONLY 25 VOTES (OUT OF 68 PRESENT) IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT WHICH IS INDICATIVE OF THE INFLUENCE BROUGHT TO BEAR BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. AS A RESULT OF MY TWO EARLIER TALKS WITH KY ON THIS POINT AND AMBASSADOR LODGE'S ORIGINAL DISCUSSION OF IT WITH HIM, THERE HAS BEEN NO DOUBT IN KY'S MIND ABOUT

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 25837 C O N F I D E N T I A L
OUR ATTITUDE. HE IS ALSO SURELY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WE HAD BEEN LOBBYING ON THIS POINT WITH CERTAIN OF THE DEPUTIES, INCLUDING SOME SUPPORTING HIS POSITION ON IT.

2. THE RESULT OF THIS VOTE THIS MORNING IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO REQUIREMENT FOR A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE. SINCE I HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF OTHER MATTERS TO TAKE UP WITH KY IN THE NEAR FUTURE I DO PLAN TO MENTION THIS SUBJECT AGAIN AT THIS TIME. THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE THE REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DIRECTORATE, WHEN REVIEWING THE ELECTORAL LAW BEFORE ITS PROMULGATION, COULD BE PERSUADED TO REQUEST PROVISION FOR A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE. SINCE KY SAID THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE ASSEMBLY AND THE ASSEMBLY HAS NOW ACTED, I THINK THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN PUSHING KY IN THIS DIRECTION. IT WOULD PROBABLY SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND O NTHE OTHER HAND MIGHTO UNNECESSARILY HAMPER MY EFFORTS TO DEVELOP PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HIM.

(1)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Doreen Spenser DATE 10/5/81
XDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE SIGNED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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3. THIS EPISODE IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY CERTAIN LENGTHS TO WHICH WE CAN PROPERLY GO IN SEEKING TO INFLUENCE AND ADVISE THE GVN OR THE ASSEMBLY ON SUCH MATTERS. THE FINAL DECISION IS THEIRS. BUNKER
BT

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-O at 8:14 a.m., May 16.
Passed White House, DOD, CIA at 8:25 a.m., May 16.

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